

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 08933 301955Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 H-01 PRS-01 INR-07 INRE-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 BIB-01 L-03 SP-02 PA-01 /049 W
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O R 301921Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9681
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8933

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PO, US
SUBJECT: BIB/RFE NEGOTIATIONS: INITIAL RESPONSE TO RARET LETTER

REF: (A) LISBON 8909, (B) LISBON 8929

SUMMARY: FIGUEIREDO RESPONDED TO RARET MANAGER'S LETTER
(REFTEL A) BY PRESSING FOR COUNTER-PROPOSALS, AND INSISTED
UPON AN ANSWER FROM RARET BY JAN 15. END SUMMARY.

1. LATE DEC 29, FIGUEIREDO SUMMONED COSTA PEREIRA, HER
ASSISTANT AND RARET LAWYER TO MEETING WITH HIS COMMITTEE.
FIGUEIREDO PRESENTED COSTA PEREIRA WITH A LETTER WHICH
RESPONDED TO HER LETTER OF THE SAME DATE. HERewith
INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION: "I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF
YOUR LETTER, AND INFORM YOU THAT THE INTER-MINISTERIAL
COMMISSION WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH AND CLARIFY FOR
YOUR (RARET) ADMINISTRATION THE DETAILS ABOUT PRICE,
FORM AND SUBSTANCE WHEREIN OUR DRAFT ALTERED YOUR MAY 5 DRAFT.

"BUT I INFORM YOU THAT IT HAS BECOME ABSOLUTELY
IMPERATIVE, FOR VARIOUS RASONS, SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE
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PAGE 02 LISBON 08933 301955Z

OF THE DATE SET BY HIGHER AUTHORITIES FOR THE TERMINA-
TION OF NEGOTIATIONS, THAT THE STUDY IN PROGRESS BE
PRESENTED TO US NO LATER THAN JAN 15, 1977. WITH MY
BEST WISHES, JOAO FIGUEIREDO."

2. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, FIGUEIREDO--APPARENTLY

SHAKEN BY RARET'S MEASURED RESPONSE IN COSTA PEREIRA
LETTER-SOUGHT TO DRAW RARET GROUP INTO
SPECIFICS WITHOUT, HOWEVER, OFFERING ANY FURTHER CLARI-
FICATION OF HIS COMMITTEE'S DRAFT. RARET GROUP REITERATED
THAT THEY COULD NOT ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS
UNTIL THEIR PRINCIPALS HAD TIME TO REVIEW FIGUEIREDO'S
DRAFT.

3. FIGUEIREDO PRESSED INSISTENTLY FOR RARET RESPONSE
TO HIS DRAFT BY JAN 15, STATING, INTER ALIA, (A) HE WOULD
SEND HIS COMMITTEE'S REPORT FORWARD TO HIS SUPERIORS BY
THAT DATE WITH OR WITHOUT RARET INPUT; (B) HE WAS BEST
PERSON TO DEAL WITH AND OTHERS IN GOP MIGHT NOT BE SO
SYMPATHETIC; (C) LACK OF RARET RESPONSE NOW WOULD RESULT
IN LENGTHY DELAYS, WHICH NEITHER SIDE DESIRES. HE
DECLARED THAT HIS INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE HAD BEEN GIVEN
A FIXED PERIOD IN WHICH TO CONCLUDE ITS WORK. AS AN
ARMY OFFICER HE HAD A REPUTATION FOR MEETING DEADLINES
AND ACCOMPLISHING HIS MISSIONS ON SCHEDULE. HE ADMITTED,
HOWEVER, THAT HIS COMMITTEE ENVISAGED WORKING ON
DEUTSCHE WELLE CONTRACT THROUGH JAN 31. COSTA PEREIRA
CHARACTERIZED ATMOSPHERE AT DEC 29 MEETING AS BETTER
THAN THAT OF DEC 22 SESSION, BUT STILL "NOT GOOD."

4. COMMENT: FIGUEIREDO'S INSISTENCE ON DEADLINES APPEARS
TO US TO STEM FROM HIS UNCERTAINTY REGARDING HIS STUDY
GROUP'S ROLE, AS WELL AS HIS OBVIOUS DESIRE TO EXPAND HIS
PERSONAL ROLE INTO THAT OF "NEGOTIATOR." HENCE, HE IS
SEEKING TO IMPOSE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS THE TERMINAL DATE FOR
CONCLUSION OF HIS STUDY GROUP'S REPORT. HIS UNILATERAL
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PAGE 03 LISBON 08933 301955Z

DEADLINES, THEREFORE, ARE PROBABLY MORE FLEXIBLE THAN HE
INDICATES. NONTHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES BIB SHOULD
MAKE AT LEAST A PARTIAL RESPONSE BY JAN 15 TO FIGUEIREDO
DRAFT CONTRACT, IN ORDER TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF BREAKING
OFF CONTACT.
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